

CONFIDENTIAL

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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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EAST GERMANY

No Public Debate over the Guillaume Case

The US Mission in Berlin reports that the East German regime still refuses to be drawn into public controversy over the Guillaume case and Brandt's resignation. Although Guillaume's arrest has reportedly set off some "agonizing tremors" in the councils of the SED, the mission does not believe that this reassessment will have any great impact in the top leadership. It is a well-known fact, says the Mission, that the Soviets control all key aspects of GDR security and must have been aware of Guillaume's activities. The Soviets may now exert greater control over security in East Germany and thus cause some friction.

The Mission also discounts the idea that East German hardliners engineered Brandt's downfall to derail detente. The regime, in fact, apparently felt increasingly confident that it could work to its advantage with Brandt. It must now deal with someone it regards as less congenial.

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ROMANIA

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Contacts With Portuguese Leaders

The prospects for the establishment of Romanian-Portuguese relations were given a boost by a meeting in Lisbon on May 11 between Junta leader General Spínola and Romanian emissary Minnea Gheorghiu, head of the Romanian Academy of Social and Political Sciences. Gheorghiu, a full member of the party central committee also has good political contacts in the Romanian leadership. The press in Bucharest has played up Gheorghiu's meetings with both Spínola and Socialist Party Chief Soares. Agerpres quoted the General as expressing a wish for the resumption and development of relations. It also noted that discussions were held on the development of economic, cultural, and artistic relations. In addition, Spínola asked Gheorghiu to convey to Ceausescu "best wishes for happiness and prosperity."

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